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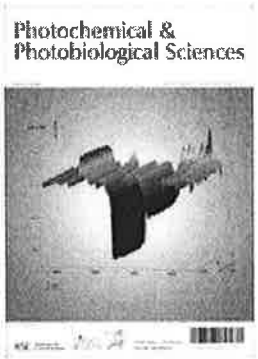

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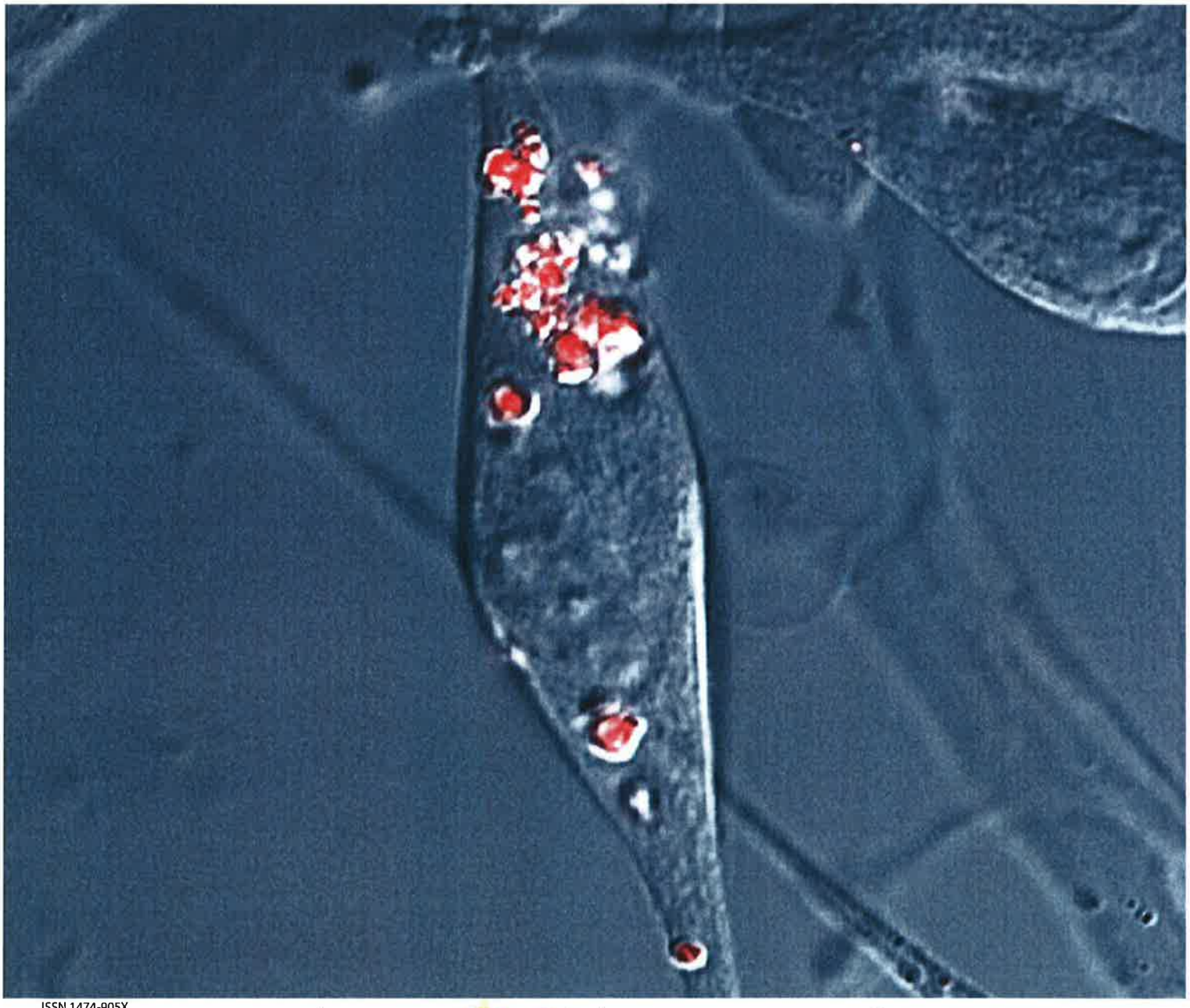

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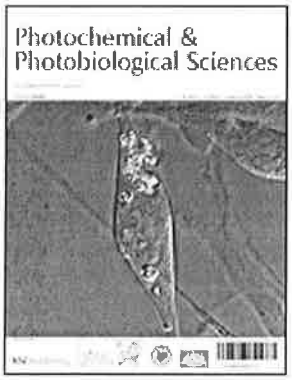

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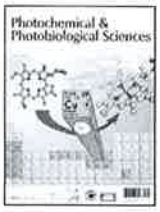

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Measuring the influence of UV reflection from vertical metal surfaces on humans

Joanna Turner and Alfio V. Parisi

Erythemal UV exposure for individuals involved in outside activities are affected according to surrounding structures in an urban environment. Occupational UV exposure is likely to increase by the effects of surrounding structures. UV reflections from surrounding structures, in this case vertical metal walls, were investigated for their influence on erythemal UV exposure in the southern hemisphere. Multiple dosimeters were placed at specific features on head forms, for three different vertical wall conditions, measured at hourly intervals, providing a more detailed representation of the effect of nearby (north facing) reflective wall, non-reflective wall and no wall on UV exposure for a construction worker facing the wall direction. Two types of metal sheeting walls were investigated, with the first type (shiny and smooth in appearance) showing results that indicate the UV reflectance from this surface can increase the average erythemal UV exposure by at least 20% and up to an average of 50% for certain facial positions, compared to no wall and up to 300% compared to a non-reflective wall. A second metal sheeting type coated with colour, does not show as much influence on UV exposure for larger solar zenith angles compared to the first type of metal sheeting, but for smaller solar zenith angles provides an influence that approaches similar erythemal UV exposure to that when no wall is present. The time to reach the exposure limits defined by regulatory bodies for occupational UV exposure can be decreased if the first type of metal sheeting is in proximity to an outdoor worker. The experimental method of this study leads to discussion of how metal surfaces used in the construction industry physically reflect UV radiation. The conclusion is that albedo, which is traditionally used to measure UV reflection, is not an appropriate quantity to explore UV reflection from vertical metal surfaces. This may be due to the reason that metal surfaces seem to involve specular reflection as well as diffuse reflection.

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Sarah Lennox

From: Debbie White
Sent: Monday, 28 June 2010 11:31 AM
To: Sarah Lennox
Subject: RE: further publication info

Hi Sarah

Assoc Prof Alfio Parisi

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The views expressed on staff homepages may not reflect the views of the University.

Professional Affiliations

Member of Australian Institute of Physics
Member of Australasian Radiation Protection Society

Research Interests

Solar UV, Dosimetry, Specroradiometry

Recent Research Outcomes

Three most recent :

Parisi, A.V., Smith, D., Schouten, P. & Turnbull, D.J. 2009, "Solar ultraviolet protection provided by human head hair," Photochem. Photobiol. vol.85, pp.250-254.

Parisi, A.V., Turnbull, D.J. & Turner, J. 2009, "Comparison of the biologically effective spectra for erythema and pre-vitamin D3 synthesis," International Journal Biometeorology, vol.53, pp.11-15.

Downs, N. & Parisi, A.V. 2009, "Ultraviolet exposures in different playground settings: A cohort study of measurements made in a school population," Photodermatology, Photoimmunology, Photomedicine, vol.25, pp.196-201.

Most notable :

Parisi, A.V., Sabburg, J. & Kimlin, M.G. 2004, Scattered and Filtered Solar UV Measurements, Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht.

Teaching Experience

Tertiary : 22 years

Administrative Responsibilities

Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of Sciences

Sarah Lennox

From: Alfio Parisi
Sent: Monday, 28 June 2010 11:44 AM
To: Sarah Lennox
Cc: Debbie White
Subject: RPCS 10952

Hello Sarah,
Regarding the above paper by Turner and Parisi, I confirm that I was one of the collaborating authors and I was employed as a staff member at the USQ at the time.

Thanks for your work with ePrints.

Best regards, Alfio

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